

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 VO-05 H-01
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:JBROH-KAHN:CRH
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:JLCARLIN
HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
EA/RA:JFRIEDMAN
EUR/WE:MCRAMERUS (INFO)

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P 292301Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: (A) PARIS 27741, (B) PARIS 18227

1. HA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY CARLIN CALLED IN FRENCH MINISTER-COUNSELOR BOYER AUGUST 28 TO DISCUSS INDOCHINESE REFUGEE SITUATION. CARLIN REVIEWED CURRENT U.S. PAROLE PROGRAM AND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS OF FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES. RESETTLEMENT UNDER ALL OF THESE, HOWEVER, WAS INADEQUATE IN LIGHT OF LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES. THERE WERE THREE CRITICAL NEEDS: ADDITIONAL RE-
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SETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES, ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO UNHCR FOR TEMPORARY CARE AND MAINTENANCE, AND CONTINUED PROVISION TEMPORARY ASYLUM BY ASIAN COUNTRIES.

2. CARLIN STATED THAT LOW KEY MEETING WOULD BE HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR IN SEPTEMBER DURING HIGH COMMISSIONER'S VISIT TO REVIEW THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE INDOCHINESE REFU-

GEES AND DISCUSS WAYS TO INCREASE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A SUBSEQUENT INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THIS MATTER, POSSIBLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNHCR EXCOM MEETING IN OCTOBER. PURPOSE OF THESE MEETINGS WOULD BE TO MEET NEEDS HE CITED.

3. HA/ORM DIRECTOR LOWMAN NOTED THAT THERE WAS CONTINUING PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONALIZATION, INCLUDING THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED CONGRESS OF OUR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS COUNTRIES. SINCE LAST SPRING, HOWEVER, NEED FOR GREATER INTERNATIONALIZATION HAD INCREASED BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF REFUGEE OUTFLOW. BOAT REFUGEE ARRIVALS HAD RISEN FROM MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1,500 THROUGH MARCH TO OVER 5,000 IN THE APRIL-JULY PERIOD. MANY REFUGEES BEFORE THEN HAD BEEN THOSE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH GVN OR WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN MARCH A SERIES OF DECREES DISENFRANCHISED THE FORMER MIDDLE CLASS AND ORDERED THEIR TRANSFER TO "NEW ECONOMIC ZONES." BY ALL ACCOUNT THESE ZONES COULD NOT SUPPORT THE LIFE OF THOSE TO BE SENT THERE. SINCE THE REFUGEES GREATLY FEARED THIS PROSPECT, THE EXODUS HAD INCREASED SHARPLY. SINCE THIS INCREASED FLOW COULD BE SEEN AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE VIETNAMESE SOCIETY ALONG ITS NEW COMMUNIST MODEL, IT HAD BECOME MORE CLEARLY A PROBLEM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RATHER THAN ONLY FOR THE FEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INVOLVED IN INDOCHINA.

4. LOWMAN REVIEWED EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOF, INCLUDING HIS MEETING WITH CHAYET IN JUNE REPORTED REF B. BEFORE THEN GOF HAD NOT CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, BUT LOWMAN HAD SUGGESTED THEN THAT INCREASE IN REFUGEE ARRIVALS MIGHT INCREASE PRESSURES FOR A MEETING, WHICH CHAYET HAD ACKNOWLEDGED.

5. BOYER PROMISED REPORT U.S VIEWS TO PARIS. HE ASKED WHETHER IDEA WAS TO HOLD "CONFERENCE UNDER UNHCR AUSPICES OR SEPARATELY."

6. CARLIN STATED THAT U.S. HAD NO FIRM POSITION ON FORM SUCH A MEETING SHOULD TAKE. WHILE IT MIGHT BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNHCR EXCOM MEETING, ASEAN COUNTRIES WERE NOT MEMBERS OF EXCOM. THUS, MEETING MIGHT BE HELD SEPARATELY, BUT AT SAME TIME AS EXCOM MEETING. ADVANTAGE OF SUCH TIMING WOULD BE PRESENCE OF SENIOR EXCOM OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PROBABLY AMBASSADOR CHAYET. CARLIN SAID U.S. WOULD WELCOME GOF VIEWS ON SUCH A MEETING OR WHETHER FURTHER BILATERAL EFFORTS WOULD BE PREFERABLE.

7. LOWMAN NOTED ASEAN-EEC MEETINGS WOULD BE COMING UP SOON. HE REPORTED THAT ASEAN MEMBERS AT RECENT MEETING WITH U.S. HAD DISCUSSED POOLING ARRANGEMENTS BY COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL ASYLUM TO MAKE ADVANCE COMMITMENTS TO RESETTLE CERTAIN NUMBER OF REFUGEES. ASEAN MEMBERS HAD ALSO GENERALLY SUPPORTED IDEA OF A MEETING. THEY MIGHT

BE EXPECTED TO RAISE THESE OR OTHER IDEAS AT ASEAN-EEC MEETING.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE PARIS FOLLOWING UP TO ASCERTAIN GOF VIEWS ON DESIRABILITY OF A FURTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES OR OTHER WAYS TO SPUR GREATER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEMS. CHRISTOPHER

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